

STEVE BROWN & ASSOCIATES, LLC  
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Attorneys for Trustee

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**  
**FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

In re:	)	In Proceedings Under Chapter 7
	)	
KEO SERIPHAYRATH, a/k/a JAKE	)	Case No. 2:09-bk-22937-GBN
SERIPHAYRATH and	)	
LAMPHONE SERIPHAYRATH,	)	<b>TRUSTEE'S APPLICATION TO</b>
	)	<b>EMPLOY ATTORNEYS;</b>
Debtors.	)	<b>DECLARATION OF STEVEN J.</b>
	)	<b>BROWN IN SUPPORT</b>

TO: The Honorable George B. Nielsen, Jr., United States Bankruptcy Judge

The Trustee respectfully alleges:

1. Applicant is the duly qualified and appointed Chapter 7 Trustee in this case.
2. To perform his duties as Trustee, your applicant requires the services of attorneys for the following purposes:
  - a. To advise and consult with him concerning questions arising in the conduct of the administration of the estate and concerning his rights and remedies with regard to the estate's assets and the claims of secured, preferred, and unsecured creditors, and other parties in interest;
  - b. To appear for, prosecute, defend, and represent his interests in actions arising

1 in or related to this case;

2 c. To investigate and prosecute preference and other actions arising under the  
3 Trustee's avoiding powers;

4 d. To assist in the preparation of such pleadings, motions, notices, and orders as  
5 are required for the orderly administration and/or liquidation of the estate.  
6

7 3. For the foregoing and all other necessary and proper purposes, Trustee desires to retain  
8 Steven J. Brown of the law firm of Steve Brown & Associates, LLC as counsel for the Trustee.  
9

10 4. Because Steven J. Brown specializes in bankruptcy corporate reorganization and  
11 debtor/creditor matters, and because of his expertise in those fields, Trustee believes that said law  
12 firm and attorney are well qualified to render the foregoing services.

13 5. Based upon the Declaration attached hereto, Trustee believes that Mr. Brown,  
14 assisted by other members and associates of his law firm, do not hold or represent any interest  
15 adverse to that of the Trustee or the debtors or the estate and that said law firm is a disinterested  
16 person within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. § 101. Trustee is informed that the normal hourly billing  
17 rates of "Members" is \$285.00 per hour, "Associates" is \$160.00 - \$240.00, "Of Counsel and  
18 Contract Attorneys" is \$230.00 per hour and "Salaried and Contract Legal Assistants is \$95.00 per  
19 hour to \$105.00 per hour. It is contemplated that said attorneys will seek compensation based upon  
20 normal and usual hourly billing rates. Applicant is informed and believes that the hourly rates of  
21 Mr. Brown and Steve Brown & Associates, LLC are reasonable in light of the current hourly rate  
22 charged by other attorneys in the bankruptcy area. It is further contemplated that said attorneys will  
23 seek interim compensation during the case as permitted by 11 U.S.C. § 331.  
24  
25  
26

6. The Court has the power to authorize employment of Steven J. Brown pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 327(a) which states in pertinent part:

[T]he trustee, with the court's approval, may employ one or more . . . attorneys . . . or other professional persons, that do not hold or represent an interest adverse to the estate, and that are disinterested persons, to represent or assist the trustee in carrying out the trustee's duties under this title.

WHEREFORE, Trustee prays that he be authorized to employ Steven J. Brown of Steve Brown & Associates, LLC as his attorney to render services in the areas described above with compensation to be paid as an administrative expense in such amounts as this Court may hereinafter determine and allow upon application or applications to be filed by said attorneys.

DATED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2010.

By /s/ Constantino Flores  
Constantino Flores  
Post Office Box 511  
Phoenix, AZ 85001-0511  
Trustee

COPY of the foregoing mailed the  
1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2010, to:

Office of the U.S. Trustee  
230 North First Ave., Suite 204  
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706

By Gina Ortega

**DECLARATION OF STEVEN J. BROWN**

I, STEVEN J. BROWN, declare:

1. I am an attorney duly admitted to practice before all courts of the State of Arizona, as well as this Court, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas and the Court of Appeals for the Ninth and Fifth Circuits.

2. I am the managing member of Steve Brown & Associates, LLC, the law firm that the Trustee is seeking to employ generally by the Application to which this Declaration is attached. All of the attorneys of this law firm are similarly duly admitted to practice in this state and before this Court.

3. I have extensive experience in bankruptcy, insolvency corporate reorganization, and debtor/creditor law. I am a certified expert in Arizona in business bankruptcies. The firm is well qualified to represent the Trustee generally herein, and is willing to accept employment on the basis set forth in the annexed Application.

4. The law firm of Steve Brown & Associates, LLC, its members and its associates, do not hold any interest adverse to the above-entitled estate and said law firm is a disinterested person as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101.

5. Neither the firm nor any of its members has a pre-petition or other claim against the estate.

6. Neither the firm nor any of its members has any connection with the debtor. We have not represented in the past, and we do not plan to represent in the future, any related debtor or principals.

7. We have not received a retainer from the debtor, the estate, a principal of the debtor or a third party.

8. We do not have any interests adverse to the Trustee, the estate or the debtor.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2010, at Phoenix, Arizona.

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/s/ Steven J. Brown